THE STILLING OF THE STORM.

Last Sunday we considered Xn Hope as the anchor of the soul, enabling one to stand firm and calm during all the storms of earthly existance and finally to anchor safe and secure in the harbor of everlasting life. I think you will agree with me, however, that, at times, the storms of life rage so fiercely and we are catch usso completely at their mercy that it seems as tho nothing short of the abating of the storm itself will save us.

The disciples were once caught in such a storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee, until they thot surely they would perish; but Jesus who was with them, when awakened and appealed to by the fear-stricken disciples, commanded the winds and the waves to cease and a great calm came ov over the region. Perhaps if we examine the scriptural record of this event, we may discover therein a source of help for us should we ever be caught in such a storm.

I. THE MASTER'S PROPOSAL

It was the Master himself who proposed to the disciples,"Let us go over to the other side". Desires and expectancies represent the creative voice urging man to go over to the other side. All progress is an effort to reach the other side. Ideals beckon ~~beckon~~ to us to come. Reform movements represent our attempts to take mankind with us over to the other side.

Xn living is crossing life's Sea of Galilee. By ~~Thru~~ faith and hope in X God is continually proposing to us to go over to the other side; away from mere earthly existance, away from evil, away from the things that perish away from darkness and error, away from greed and lust and hatred--over to the other side where there is only goodness, where the light of Truth shines constantly, and where abound Peace and Joy, Good-will and Love.

In Mark's account we read that "there were other boats with him." The Master's proposal is not for us ob

only but for all others whom we can induce to join us. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel" is Christ's request of us that we tell all the world about the other side of human life, God's side, and invite everybody in the world to go with us.

II. THE DISCIPLES TAKE JESUS WITH THEM.

"And leaving the multitudes they take him with them, even as he was, in the boat."

Every man takes his god with him. The source of our faith and hope is always with us. He who proposes that we go over to the other side is made our travel companion. No man is without his god. Even the man who does not believe in God believes in some form of luck or fate and his luck or fate goes with him wherever he goes. In every ship of state can be found the nation's god. We stamp our coins "In God we trust" and rest ~~it~~ our constitution on the same rock of faith. And every Xn takes X along with him while sailing across "life's solemn main."

III. CAUGHT IN THE STORM

Suddenly "there ariseth a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the boat insomuch that the boat was now filling".

Noone reaches the other side without encountering storms. More storms arise in the path of those who are crossing life's Galilee than arise in the paths of the steamers plying the great oceans from port to port.

We read in the Bible of a flood that covered all the earth some thousands of years ago. We read in our our daily newspapers of the War Storm that is raging at the present time thruout the whole world, a storm which has already swept millions into eternity and crippled millions of others for life, a storm which threatens to wreck nations and capsize all Xn influence in the world.

Going back to Galilee, why did that storm catch the

disciples unawares and totally unprepared to meet it so that they feared total destruction? And how is it that we are frequently caught the same way? Why are we so apparently helphess in this greatest storm that ever raged?

The experience of storms on the high seas has taught man to build larger and stronger vessels, better equipped and more ably manned until modern sea-going craft can ride with fair degree of safety thru the very worst storms even. Is there no experience which we can gain from the storms of life to teach us how to save ourselves from them? What does the Galilee an tempest teach us?

It was towards evening when the disciples and Jesus embarked to cross over to the other side. It had been a day of healing and teaching which taxed the Master's strength so that he became worn out physically. I can imaging with what concern the disciples observed this and how they prepared a comfortable place in the stern where Jesus could lie down and rest. Then when the storm wind began to blow hard and the waves suddenly arose Jesus "himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion." I can see the disciples go down into the stern to tell their Master about the rising wind and sea, but seeing him asleep and not wishing to disturb his rest, they return to the deck to awaih further developments. But as the wind increases in violence and the waves roll higher another storm breaks upon them, aye, within them, for a great fear siezes hold of them and they become completely unnerved. Losing all control and giving up all hope they rush to the sleeping Master and awakening him cry out, "Save us! we perish!"

Whereas it is true that every man takes his god with him, it is also true that he is inclined to let his god go to sleep, as it were, for various reasons,

while he himself runs the boat. So long as the waters are calm and the going is smooth it is'nt so necessary for God to be on deck; in fact, it is a little more comfortable to keep him somewhat out of the way so we can do much as we please and enjoy the trip more after our own fashion.

Where is your God--in the stern sound asleep on a cushion, or at the wheel acting as your pilot? Is God the Captain in command of your life, or do you simply take him along with you for emergencies? What has God to do in your home, in your business and in your social life? Do you let Him sleep there, or is He wide awake on the job and in full charge of your home, of your business, of every relational activity?

Every nation claims God to be with him. God is with Uncle Sam. But what position has God been holding on board our ship of state these many years? Has He been the Captain in active command? Or has He been kept down in the hold asleep while we, the nation, have been sailin by our own orders and calculations? If God had been in active charge of every ship of state and had the nations been obeying His orders, would we be driven so hard in this present world-storm? Would this awful war-tempest have ever arisen if the God of the nations had been on deck instead of in the stern? ~~After all such questioning is beside the main~~

After all such questioning is dodging the real issue before us. The disciples had a good reason for putting Jesus to sleep. Likewise we may be able explanation for to explain why God has not been given active command of all human activities, why men do not follow the will of God in all things.

More to the point is the fact that the disciples feared that they would be capsized and all drowned because Jesus was asleep. As tho he had not full control of the storm even while sleeping! And because man is left to do his own steering and directing and, seemingly, God is not the captain in active charge but is off to one side somewhere, many are siezed with fear and dare

not even hope to escape the destruction that is inevitable. In their despair they cry aloud ~~to their deity~~, "My God, why hast thou forsaken us? Save us! we perish!"

IV. JESUS FROM TEMPEST TO CALM

When Jesus awakened and sensed the situation, he first rebuked the storm of fear that raged within the disciples. "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?"

Man at the mercy of fear is utterly helpless: he neither can help himself nor can God help him. The first thing necessary to do is to overcome all fear. The disciples had no confidence in their sleeping Master and consequently, the wind and the waves filled them with terror. When we cannot see God in the storm that is raging we, too, lose our faith and become filled with fear. At such times we forget that God neither slumbers nor sleeps but is ever watchful and mindful, having absolute control of every situation.

When the storm of fear that rages within has been subsided, and the calm of absolute faith in God has been restored, the tempest which has been blowing without soon spends itself, the winds become zep gentle zephers and the waves playful ripples.

O ye of little faith, why are ye so fearful of this world-wide war tempest? Know ye not that, tho made in Germany, God is bringing out of it a calm, a peace, such as the world has never enjoyed? The peoples of the earth are going to understand one another better after this. The people themselves are going to have more to say about the government and about the conditions that shall control their individual lives.